



FOH UPDATE ON 2010 FLU VACCINE

OCTOBER 18, 2010

New Recommendations for 2010-2011 Flu Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. This year it is recommended that **everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated against the flu** as soon as the vaccine is available, unless you have a severe allergy to eggs. The [2010-2011 flu vaccine](#) will protect against the three virus strains that research suggests will be most common, including the 2009 H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last season. Vaccination of high risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness. People at high risk of serious flu complications include:

- young children
- pregnant women
- those with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease
- people 65 years and older

Vaccination also is important for health care workers and other people who live with or care for high risk people.

Vaccine Supply Is Plentiful

This year the influenza vaccine manufacturers licensed in the United States project as many as 160-165 million doses of vaccine will be produced – the highest amount ever. Federal Occupational Health (FOH) has received an initial shipment of approximately 40% its vaccine order and has begun immunizations in most sites. Demand has been high which is great. However, because of increased demand, some sites may temporarily run out until their supplies are replenished.

Future Supply and Timelines

As we have experienced in the past with seasonal influenza vaccine, production, supply and distribution are often unpredictable. FOH flu vaccine is procured via a government contract that is not written or controlled by FOH. The current contract allows for multiple shipments and FOH has already received our first portion. The remaining two or three shipments are expected to arrive in phases at our distributor between late October and early November. **We do not know the exact date our health centers will receive supplies yet, but anticipate them in early November, which is less than 2 weeks away.** Local FOH staff will notify you when it arrives. Ultimately, every site will get their complete order, but we ask for your patience. Flu activity in the United States has remained low, which is typical this early in the season. **Remember, supply is plentiful this year and receiving a flu shot in November and December is still the ideal time to receive protection against influenza.**

To find out more information about the flu, frequently asked questions, or whether vaccine is available for your family at a location near you, go to www.flu.gov.